

Supporting the Access Grid in the UK

Enhancing Quality for Academia

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Weddings



SC Global



e-Social Science

Performance Art

Access Grid in the UK

- Well over 60 AG nodes in the UK
- April 2005 – 55 registered with the AGSC



Why the AGSC?

- Oct 2002 – *Multi-Site Videoconferencing for the UK e-Science Programme*
http://www.nesc.ac.uk/technical_papers/UKeS-2002-04.html
- Recommendation to establish a support centre to “assure quality across sites”
- AGSC established in April 2004 @ University of Manchester
- Funded by JISC, managed by UKERNA

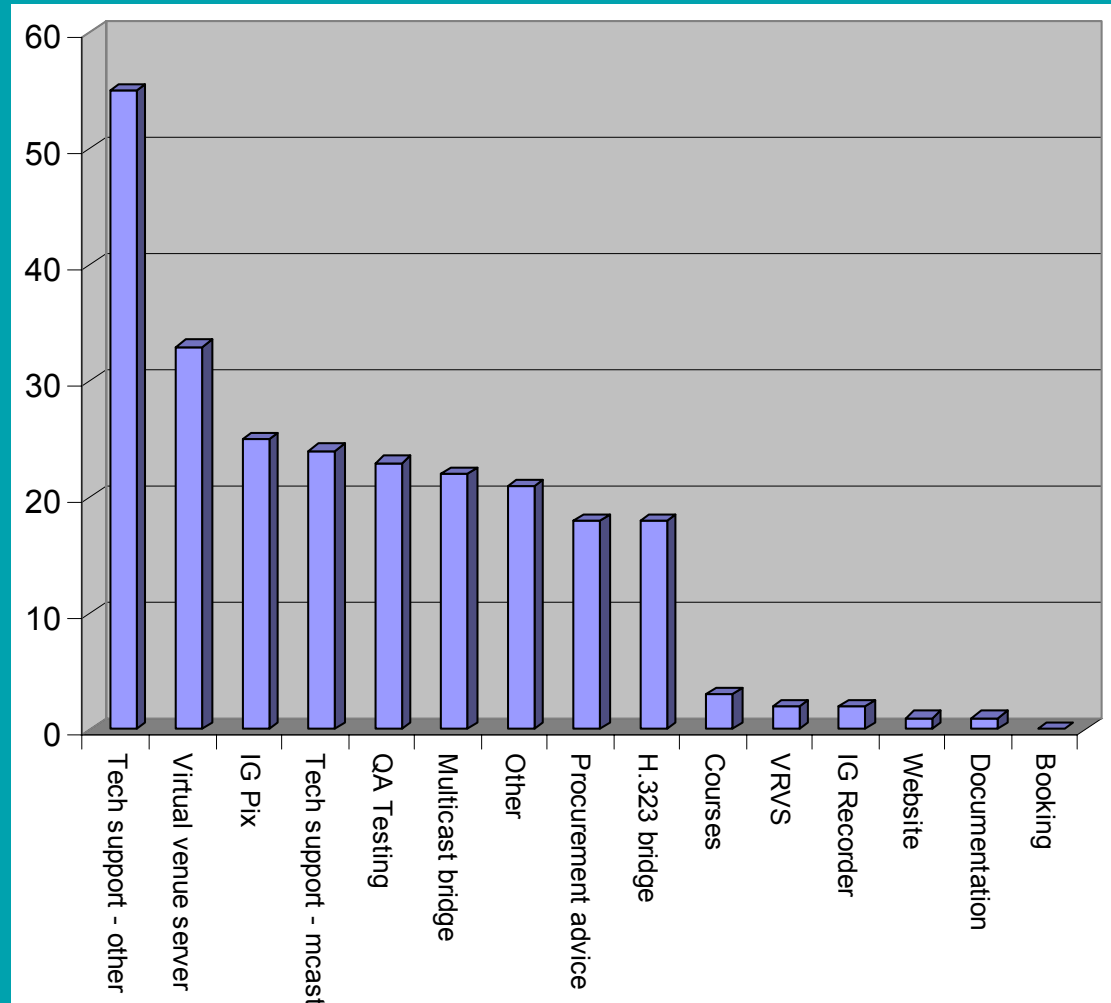


What is it?

- General support
- IG Pix
- IG Recorder
- Virtual Venue Servers
- Multicast-Unicast Bridges
- QA Tests
- Training
- Documentation

Support calls (April 2004 – April 2005)

- 1st & 2nd line support
- For node ops / end-users



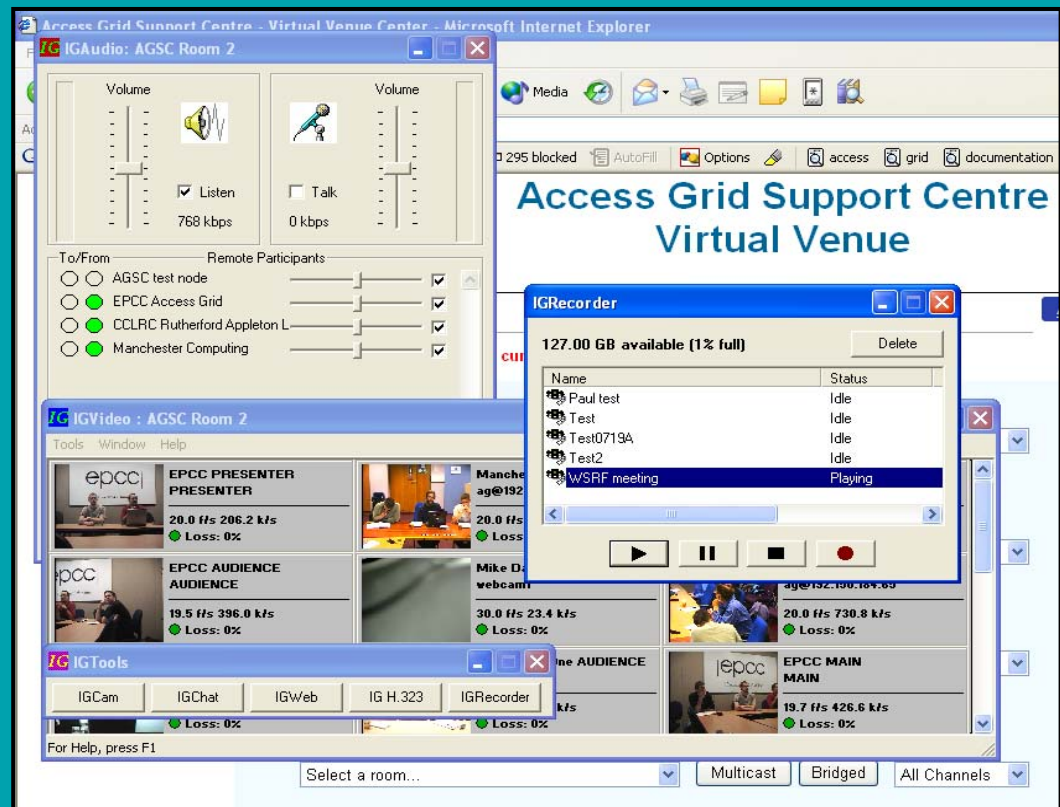
IG Pix

- Product from inSORS
- Allows shared presentations
- Slides viewed via web browser
- No need for specialist client software
- No need to distribute files beforehand
- Available free to registered users



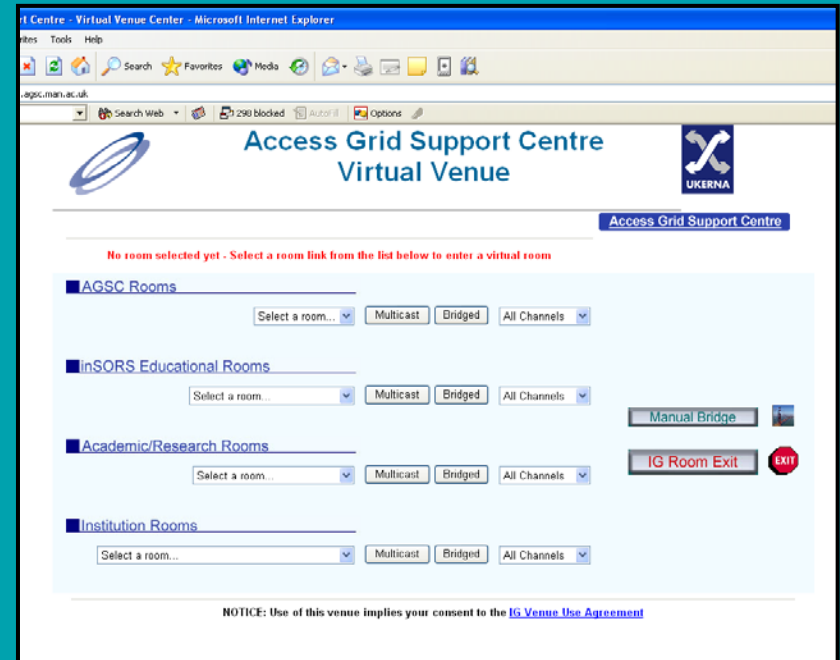
IG Recorder

- Product from inSORS
- Allows recording of AG events



Virtual Venue Servers

- InSORS:
 - All original venues (Full Sail, Bridgeport, etc.)
 - All UK institutional venues
 - AGSC-specific venues
 - Any venue you want!
- AG2:
 - Same venues as inSORS VVS
 - UK e-Science X.509 certificates (or regular AG certs)
 - Can set up secure venues (based on DN) for your group
 - All the features of AG2 (shared docs, shared apps, etc.)



Multicast-Unicast Bridges

- **InSORS**
– *for reliability*
- **AG2 bridge**
– *for AG2 users*
- **rcBridge** (originally written by ANU Internet Futures, adapted by Manchester)
– *especially good for low bandwidth connectivity*
- **staticBridge** (written by Andrew Rowley, Manchester)
– *for users behind firewalls*

QA Tests

- Aim: to improve the AG experience for users
- Audio
 - Echo
 - General quality
- Video
 - General quality
 - Picture construction
- Networking
 - Multicast
 - Use of beacons
- Collaborative software
 - IG Pix
 - VNC
 - Text chat (Jabber)

(5) Audio	Speaking in a normal voice	Display in RAT	In a normal speaking voice the LED's in RAT should peak at orange, but not go into the red. The speaker should be asked to read something, with some emphasis on parts to check the peaks.	
Pass / Fail	Comments:			
(6) Video	Picture Quality	5. Excellent 4. Good 3. Fair 2. Poor 1. Bad	The contrast between the background and speakers in the foreground should be good. Presenters should not be placed in front of bright backgrounds e.g. with a projected image in background, as the system overcompensates and the presenters' images become too dark to see any detail clearly. The images should not flicker.	
Pass / Fail	Cam 1	Cam 2	Cam 3	Cam 4
	Comments:			
(7) Video	Camera positioning of subjects	5. Excellent 4. Good 3. Fair 2. Poor 1. Bad	The cameras should be positioned to show a head and shoulders shots of the presenters. If groups must be shown, these should sit close together and be restricted to 2 or 3 people if possible to avoid becoming too small in the shot.	
Pass / Fail	Comments:			
(8) Networking	Beacon running	Yes / No	Is the Beacon running? Check http://ulcc.beacon.ja.net/ag/	
Pass / Fail	Comments:			

Training

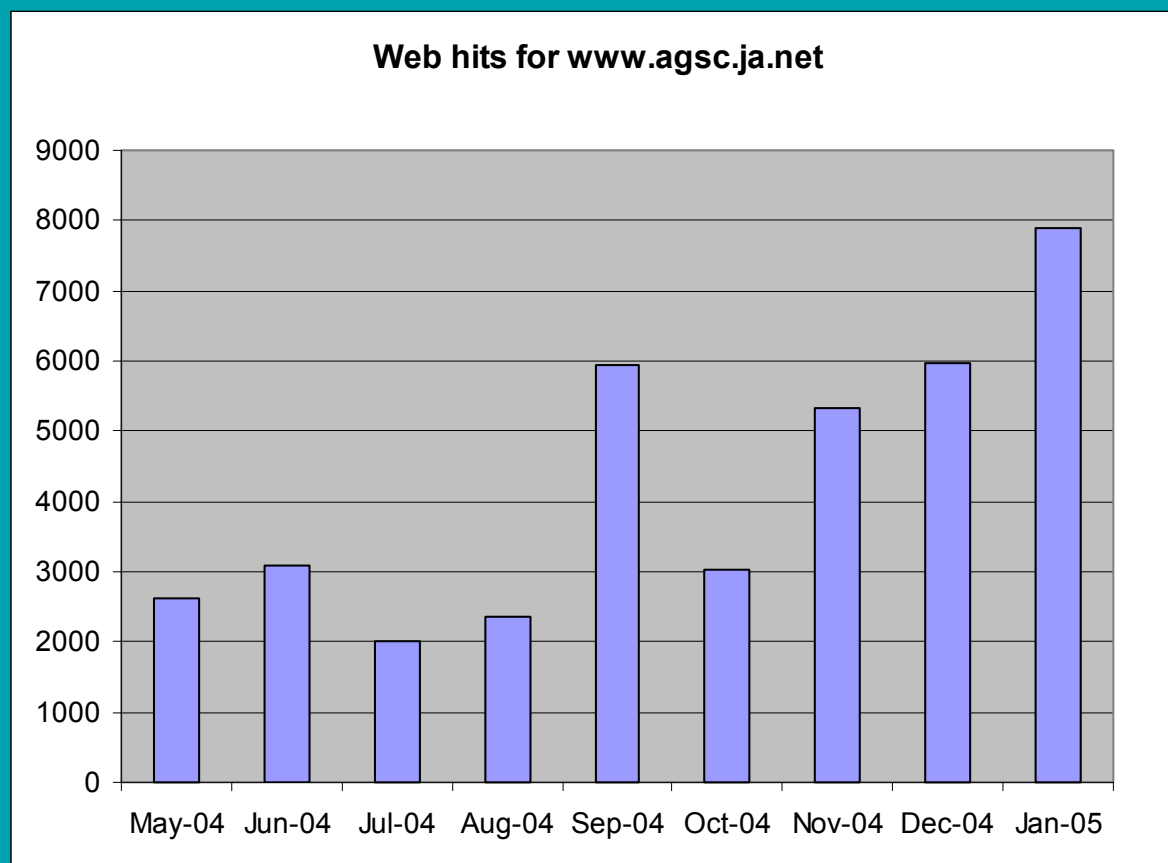
- January 2005:
 - “So you want to have an Access Grid ?”
 - “Access Grid Research & Development”
 - “The Access Grid Support Centre”
 - “QA Tests & Node Maintenance”
 - “The Access Grid Driving License”
 - “Advanced Audio”
- Next workshops: July 2005

Documentation

- Port usage (Javier Gomez Alonso):
<http://www.accessgrid.org/agdp/guide/ports.html>
- More to come!



Who's Using It?



Where's It Going?

- Guest QA tests
- VRVS Server
- Automated QA testing (2 stages)
- Integration of Access Grid → JVCS Booking System
- Rollout of Access Grid enhancements...

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<http://www.agsc.ja.net>

<http://www.sve.man.ac.uk/General/Staff/daw>

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